

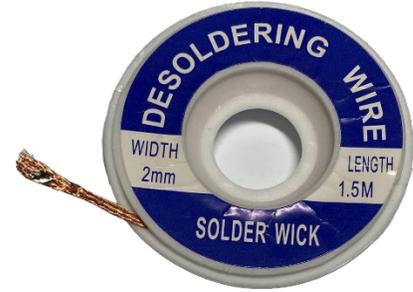


This toolkit contains a **solder wick** (desoldering wire) for desoldering and is not included in the 2021 Build Manual.

Solder wicks are made from braided copper wire and work through a capillary action of “wicking” melted solder away from the soldered terminal into the solder wick.

Solder wicks are used extensively in the electronics industry and is provided in the SeaPerch toolkit for skill building and as a supplemental tool.

The solder wick can be used instead of the desoldering pump, although both have advantages and disadvantages.



Desoldering pumps do not require as much heat on the solder being removed. Excessive heat can damage electrical components and the printed circuit board (PCB).

Solder wicks are better for removing small amounts of solder.

| To desolder | Which tool to use |
|---|-------------------|
| Large blobs of solder or large solder bridges | Desoldering Pump |
| Small solder blobs or small solder bridges | Solder Wick |

Solder wick safety

The solder wick becomes very hot and can cause serious burns if the hot braided copper is touched.

Hold the solder wick by the plastic case only.

Feed at least 2” of the solder wick out of the plastic case to keep your fingers away from the soldering iron.

Review *the Tool Usage, Skills, and Safety* section beginning on Page Two of the manual for general safety, usage, and maintenance tips about using a soldering iron and soldering.

Solder wick usage



Small solder bridge that needs to be removed.

Allow the soldering iron to heat up.

Clean and tin the soldering iron tip.

Lay the solder wick on the solder bridge and press the soldering iron tip firmly onto the wick.

Once the solder melts and flows into the wick, remove the soldering iron and lift the wick.

Wait for the wick to cool and trim the solder coated end with cutting pliers.



Terminals after removing the solder bridge.